

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 029

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM KATZEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, CF, AO
SUBJECT: ANGOLA/ZAIRE BORDER

1. REGRET DELAY IN REPLYING TO REFTEL, WHICH
ARRIVED HERE ONLY THIS MORNING (JANUARY 9), BY POUCH
FROM KINSHASA.

2. AS YOU KNOW, 118 (1977) REPORTED SOME MOTION BY GOCB
IN SEEKING TO AMELIORATE ANGOLA/ZAIRE BORDER SITUATION. BELGIAN
CHARGE IN

LUANDA TOLD ME DURING VISIT HERE JANUARY 8 THAT HE
IS CONFIDENT MOMENT IS RIGHT FOR CONGO TO PLAY A ROLE IN MEDIATION.
I ALSO BELIEVE IT TO BE WELL WORTH THE EFFORT FOR US TO ENCOURAGE
GOCB, WITH TWO QUALIFICATIONS:

--A. THAT WE DEAL DIRECTLY WITH YHOMDY-
OPANGO, WHO LIKES MOBUTU, AND WHO, BELIEVING ANGOLA NOT TO BE NEARLY
APPRECIATIVE ENOUGH FOR CONGOLESE AID DURING EARLIER DAYS OF CIVIL
WAR, IS LIKELY TO BE FAIRLY OBJECTIVE. DEFENSE MINISTER SASSON-
NGUESSO WOULD PROBABLY SCOTCH SUCH AN EFFORT AND ADVERSELY INFLUENCE
CONGOLESE OBJECTIVITY WERE WE TO DO OTHER THAN GO DIRECTLY,
AND DISCREETLY TO YHOMBY-
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OPANGO. I REALLY BELIEVE THAT YHOMBY OPANGO COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO
DO SOMETHING MORE.

--B. SHOULD WE MOVE WITH CONGOLESE, THAT WE BE CAREFUL CONCERNING
HOW WE WORK WITH THEM VIS-A-VIS NIGERIAN INVOLVEMENT IN RESOLVING
THE QUESTION. ANGOLA/ZAIRE MATTER CLEARLY WILL ARISE DURING NETO'S
VISIT THIS WEEK TO LAGOS AND, NATURALLY, CONSTRUCTIVE NIGERIAN ROLE
WOULD BE HELPFUL. IF WE CHOOSE TO ENCOURAGE CONGOLESE, WE WOULD WANT

TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION THAT USG IS MOVING ON PARALLEL TRACK
WITH LAGOS WITHOUT RELATING THEIR INITIATIVES. IN ADDITION TO
OTHER SENSIVIIVITIES, CONGOLESE MIGHT
FEEL THEIR ROLE TO BE REDUNDANT, AND WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO ACT.
WHY DON'T WE SEE HOW OBASANJO MAKES OUT WITH NETO, THEN MOVE
ACCORDINGLY? IF THE NIGERIANS ARE HOPEFUL, WISH TO ACT, PREFER
TO DO SO ALONE, AND WE BELIEVE IT ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THEM TO DO SO
ALONE, FINE. IF THEY DO NOT SENSE MUCH PROGRESS, WANT TO COOL IT,
WANT A PARTNER, OR WE FEEL AFTER NETO VISIT TO NIGERIA THAT IT
WOULD BE PREFERABLE THAT WE DO SO, LET'S TALK TO THE CONGOLESE.
KATZEN

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